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TESTIMONY
RESPECTING OUR DEAR
DECEASED FRIEND
RICHARD SHACKLETON,
GIVEN FORTH *18*
BY THE
MONTHLY MEETING
OF
CARLOW.

The memory of the just is blessed, Prov. 10. 7.

DUBLIN:

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NO. 20 MEATH-STREET,

M,DCC,XCIII.

TESTIMONY

RESPECTING OUR DEAR

DECEASED FRIEND

RICHARD SHACKLETON

GIVEN FOR THE



MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE

The name of the person named in the

DECEASED

PRINTED BY RICHARD SHACKLETON
LONDON
1880

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TESTIMONY

RESPECTING OUR DEAR

DECEASED FRIEND

RICHARD SHACKLETON.

HE was the only son of Abraham and Margaret Shackleton respecting whom honourable mention hath been made in a Testimony given forth by this Meeting, and was born at Ballitore the 28th of 7th Month 1726. Discovering early an inclination for learning, his father, who kept a boarding-school, had him instructed in the necessary qualifications for assisting and succeeding him in that useful occupation. An account of the visitations of divine love mercifully extended to him is found in his own writing in a letter to a near friend, conveying much instruction, as follows,

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"God

" God Almighty visited my Spirit with a sense of His
 " goodness (precious above all things) in the very ear-
 " ly part of my life, as early as I think I have any re-
 " membrance: He graciously renewed the same divine
 " influence upon my soul at various seasons of my Child-
 " hood and more advanced youth: This sense and fa-
 " vour was every thing needful to me: it was know-
 " ledge enough, strength enough, joy and comfort in
 " abundance; while in possession of this I wanted no-
 " thing; all things as to me were right; but tempta-
 " tions suited to my cast and dispositions as a boy were
 " thrown in my way; puerile amusements reading un-
 " profitable vain books were spread before me, and I
 " was at times taken in the snare. When the heart
 " gave its preference to these gratifications, the heaven-
 " ly guest withdrew and would not reside with such ri-
 " vals. Yet good and gracious was the Lord, who,
 " notwithstanding my unfaithfulness would knock again
 " for an entrance, and offer again to visit; and as I
 " opened the door of my heart (or rather he opened
 " by His spirit) he came in with the power of his judg-
 " ments, by his operative word and the pain attending
 " burned up the chaffy combustible nature, and this
 " office being over, remained a flame of pure and ho-
 " ly Joy. So I experienced Him to be not only a jea-
 " lous God, but a consuming fire. Thus with these
 " alternate visits and conflicts I went on 'till I grew to
 " a more advanced stage of youth; then the subtle nets
 " of glossy worldly Wisdom, and the toils of youthful
 " lusts, which war against the soul proved too strong
 " for me, and often carried my vessel back again down
 " the stream of natural inclination. Arrived at Man-
 " hood, and being about to settle in life, an high hand
 " arrested me in my course, shewed me my state of ali-
 " enation

"enation and the impossibility of my making an happy
 "progress without the divine blessing: so in the sincer-
 "rity of my heart I obeyed the heavenly vision, became
 "as a fool amongst my companions and an alien
 "amongst my intimate acquaintance. I sought retire-
 "ment and the company of them who companied with
 "Jesus. My sincerity was seen by the great Creator,
 "and many were the baptisms I was baptized with in
 "that day; it was also felt by his approved servants,
 "and close was the fellowship cemented between many
 "of their spirits and mine. (Thus, I have gone on to
 "this day and hour, on the same search, hungry and
 "thirsty still, not desiring any thing so much as the
 "bread of life for myself and my dear friends, compa-
 "nions in the same travail.")

Though possessed of superior natural abilities and adorned with the gifts and graces of the spirit, he did not value himself thereon, but steadily advanced in his pilgrimage, bowed down under a grateful sense of the numerous favours received at the divine hand. To his most intimate friends he frequently enforced the necessity of Humility, as the only safe situation to keep continually in, dreading lest himself or those he dearly loved should by the stratagems of the enemy be drawn therefrom. His naturally cheerful disposition, being (in great measure) regulated by best Wisdom, he had much enjoyment of social and domestick comforts, with which he was remarkably blessed. He was a kind affectionate husband, a tender and careful father, a good neighbour, liberal and generous, especially exemplary in any thing relating to the wants of our society. But he was careful that his attention should not be too long occupied by any thing in this world. Those who had

opportunity

opportunity of minutely observing his conduct have often perceived him retiring from company to seek in secret a renewal of spiritual strength. And we doubt not with like filial piety, in the midst of his outward employ (which he conducted with great reputation, he was engaged frequently to ask for divine counsel and wisdom, particularly when deprived by death of his highly valued father.) He recommended to his friends a practice he found beneficial to himself, devoting a part of each evening to religious retirement; the effects of such sacrifices were at times obvious in him, his countenance indicating that he had been in the best company. The prosperity of genuine Christianity was the object of his greatest solicitude: for this his spirit was exercised in deep mental travail: for this he was willing to be employed in any way consistent with infinite Wisdom in private or more publick labour. He was particularly exemplary in a diligent attendance of meetings appointed for the good order of the society, and latterly when at liberty from his outward occupation almost constantly attended the Yearly-Meeting at London. He long filled with much propriety the weighty station of an Elder. As his dwelling was near the spring of divine refreshment, he was often enabled to draw water for the benefit of others. He was a man of great benevolence, and the welfare of his fellow Creatures was very near his heart, frequently expressing his deep travail of spirit for the salvation of all mankind. For the departure from ancient purity obvious in our religious society, he deeply mourned; on this account his tears were poured forth; yet he was consoled in hope that through suffering and patience the Church would come forth from her wilderness state, though he did not expect to see it in his day. He was often engaged in the Family-visit in divers parts,

parts, and was earnest that the flock might be led into fresh and living pastures and feed securely beside the still waters. He used to say that he esteemed it his honour to be allowed to tread these courts, or to be employed on any little errand as a boy or runner about the house, because in this house there was abundance of soul-sustaining nourishment, there was bread enough and to spare; and when thus broken in spirit amongst his friends, and thus pouring forth the warm expression of his gratitude, he would speak largely of the beauty of the house of God, how it is all glorious, how its pavement shone with holiness, and how clean ought to be the feet which trod therein. He was well gifted for this private labour in families, which he believed our Lord particularly intended when he enjoined the disciples to wash one another's feet, being an unceasing obligation on all their successors in the Truth to do even as he had done to them, that by this exercise of discipline the members might be preserved clean from spot or blemish. Being endued with the spirit of discernment respecting Ministry, (which he earnestly desired might flow pure and unmixed from the sacred spring,) he was well qualified to be a nursing father to those in the station of Ministers, who wanted a hand of help and such he encouraged to an humble, simple, faithful, diligent occupying with the divine gift. In a letter a few months before his decease he wrote: 'The faithfulness and dedication of some of you has been cause of joy and a kind of triumph to me, so that according to my measure I can join a remnant in adopting the Apostle's expression; "For what is our hope, our joy, our crown of rejoicing? are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? for ye are our glory and joy." To the Lord alone be the praise of his own works,

works, ' but let His own works praise Him.' He was fervent in intercession for his beloved offspring, that they might be preserved near the source of all our blessings; and as they dwelt humbly before Him, who is Lord of earth as well as heaven, he had no doubt but a sufficiency of the good things of this life would be granted them with " a treasure in the heavens that faileth not." To a particular friend about three weeks before his decease he wrote, " I trust that we know something of the vicissitude of day and night and the revolution of the Lord's year in our spirits; and that He will be mercifully pleased to deliver us from evil and preserve us to the end and at the end."

Being on a visit to our Provincial School at Mountmelick he was taken ill at the house of our friend John Gatchell. Under the heavy pressure of his disorder which was termed a low fever, he said he did not know how the dispensation would terminate, if it was come for the final separation he feared he was not prepared, but he believed the baptism of sickness was necessary for purification. After much depression of mind he was encouraged in the recollection of Isaiah 40th Chap. 1st and 2d ver. " Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins." He discovered no impatience, lay calm and spoke at times rather cheerfully to those about him. He once said, I think it a favour that I feel a sympathy with the seed in suffering. He spoke of what a gloomy day it was in Jerusalem when our Lord was about to be offered up, how afflicted the women were who followed him and how

how he exhorted them, " Daughters of Jerusalem, weep
 " not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your Chil-
 " dren." Also how the high professors arrayed him in
 a purple robe and mocked him, and that now the same
 spirit was setting up a mockery of Christianity while
 they were crucifying him afresh. He said that the pre-
 sent times required to send for the mourning women,
 such as were skilful in lamentation. At another time
 appearing under great languor and depression he said,
 " My friends,—my friends,—pray for me,—that my
 " patience fail not." To some taking leave of him he
 recommended faithfulness and dedication to religious
 duties, which would draw down the blessing on them
 and on their families; said that what we profess is the
 Truth, which our worthy predecessors were so eminently
 called to support, laying the axe to the root of the cor-
 rupt tree. He spoke of a sacrifice which David made
 that was accepted, even a broken and a contrite spirit
 and he hoped *his* also was accepted.

Early in the morning of 28th of 8th Month, being
 the 8th day of his illness he passed through sore con-
 flict. For about an hour he was favoured with calm-
 ness: frequently embraced a beloved Child who at-
 tended him and about 7 o'clock same morning quietly
 departed this life in the 66th year of his age. His remains
 being conveyed to Ballitore were interred the 30th of
 the month after a solemn meeting.

Having been uncommonly blessed with health; and
 his mental faculties continuing undiminished, to his
 beloved wife, numerous friends and connections his
 removal was an unexpected stroke. We doubt not his
 purified spirit is now in the enjoyment of an everlasting
 crown. May we profitably feel our loss!

" Who

" Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing; verily I say unto you that he shall make him ruler over all his Goods." Mat. 24 Chap. 45, 46 and 47 ver.

Signed in and on behalf of our Monthly Men's Meeting held at Carlow 8th of 3d Month 1793, by

Isaac Waring

Thomas Duckett

Thomas Boake

John Watton

Christopher Williams

James Lecky

Joshua Haughton

John Lecky

William Allment

Abraham Shackleton

Matthew Church

Samuel Haughton

Daniel O'Brien

William Duckett

Samuel Watton

Richard Thompson

Joshua O'Brien

Joseph Malone

Joseph Thompson

William Leadbeater

Alexander Shelly

Thomas Waring

Benjamin Haughton

John Jenkinson

John Haughton

Thomas Doyle

Thomas Wright

The foregoing Testimony concerning our dear Friend Richard Shackleton having been read in our Quarterly-Meeting, we have full unity therewith.

Signed

(11)

Signed in and on behalf of our Quarterly Men's
Meeting for Leinster Province held in Mountmelick the
1st of 4th month 1793, by

JOHN RUSSEL,

Clerk to the meeting this time.

Read and approved in our National Half-Year's
Meeting held in Dublin the 29th of 11 month 1793
and by order and on behalf thereof Signed by

SAMUEL ELLY

Clerk to the meeting this time.

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JOHN B. BAKER

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